

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PRACTICE SHEETS - TENNESSEE

WHIP 1 - FIELD BORDER

FOTG Practice Code 386

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to establish a vegetative cover of native grasses/forbs and/or shrubs that will provide wildlife food and cover benefits.

B. PROGRAM POLICY

Apply this practice to establish permanent wildlife habitat on field edges of cropland, pasture/hay land (primarily consisting of introduced grasses), idle grassy areas, and other land uses beneficial to wildlife.

C. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for cost share, this practice shall:

- Improve wildlife habitat benefits to an acceptable level.
- Prevent degradation of environmental benefits.
- Be maintained for the expected lifespan of the practice.
- Be included in the approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

D. COST-SHARE POLICY

Eligible practice components for this practice shall be determined needed by NRCS and specified in an approved wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP). This practice shall be cost shared at a rate to meet the minimal needs of the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

Eligible Components

Minerals

Eligible Seed/Plants

Seedbed Preparation

Seeding/Planting

Herbicide Application

Temporary Cover

Temporary cover will be eligible under one of the following conditions: (a) determined needed until required seeds or plant stock is available; (b) needed because normal planting period for the species has passed and erosion problems may occur; (c) needed because of a soil condition such as chemical residue that will not allow establishment of cover immediately; (d) on sites subject to erosion where natural regeneration will be the established cover.

E. REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for this practice:

1. The seeded area shall not be grazed by domestic livestock for the life of the Long-Term Contract. Native warm season grass stands may be harvested once per year beginning with the third growing season. Native warm season grass stands may only be harvested between July 1 and August 15.
2. Herbicides used in performing the practice must be:
 - a. Federally, State, and locally registered.
 - b. Applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
3. A current soil test is required for all permanent herbaceous plantings. Lime and fertilizer are NOT required for trees, shrubs, or temporary cover.
4. Herbaceous cover used for nesting must be a minimum of 45 feet wide.

F. PLANTING TIMESPAN

Planting or sowing after the WHIP Long-Term Contract is approved by the NRCS Contracting Office (Area Conservationist) shall be completed as scheduled in the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan unless the producer can provide acceptable documentation that seed stock is not available.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Consider other resource and environmental concerns (e.g., cultural, wetlands, etc.) as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws and regulations when establishing this practice. A TN-CPA-25 must be completed for each WHDP.

H. PRACTICE MAINTENANCE

The practice shall be maintained without additional Federal cost share for the expected lifespan of the practice. Cost share shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

1. Participant destroys the cover during its lifespan; or
2. Cover fails to provide the desired wildlife benefits during the life of the WHIP Contract, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

I. TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY

NRCS shall have technical responsibility for this practice.

J. SPECIFICATIONS

Planned Widths	Field Borders shall be a minimum of 20 feet and a maximum of 120 feet.
Approved Cover	<p>Natural Regeneration is acceptable on B slopes or flatter areas (slopes of 5 percent or less). Natural regeneration is acceptable on C slopes (slopes of 5-12 percent), if sufficient ground cover is present to minimize soil erosion and other off-site environmental impacts. With natural regeneration, cost sharing shall only be available for tame grass eradication, temporary cover, and legume interseeding. Substitutions may be allowed subject to prior approval by the WHIP Program Leader or State Biologist.</p> <p>For temporary cover (corn) with eastern gamagrass, plant corn at a 45-degree angle to the eastern gamagrass rows. Corn should be no-tilled. Plant 10 pounds eastern gama about April 1. Apply atrazine for corn, following label. Plant early maturing corn about June 1 at a rate of 12,000-16,000 (1/7 bu./ac.) plants per acre. Harvest corn as early as possible.</p>
Requirements	<p>Temporary cover is authorized. Corn is authorized as a temporary cover with eastern gamagrass only.</p> <p>A current soil test is required for all permanent herbaceous plantings. Lime and fertilizer are NOT required for trees, shrubs, or temporary cover.</p>
Seedbed	For conventionally planted herbaceous materials, a firm seedbed is recommended. Prepare by plowing and disking (or harrowing) and allowed to settle. Prescribed burning (WHIP 10) may be used as a component for site preparation.
Herbicides	Apply herbicides in accordance with the label for tame grass eradication or when the no-till method of planting is used.

<u>Eligible Seeds or Plants</u>	<u>Seeding Rates (per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
Natural Regeneration	Temporary Cover, if needed	See Temporary Cover Below
Natural Regeneration with Legume Interseeding Kobe/Korean Lespedeza	15.0 lbs.	Apr. 15-June 15
Eastern Gamagrass	10.0 lbs.	
No-till Corn Temporary Cover	1/7 bu. (12,000-16,000 Corn Plants/Acre)	Dec. 1-July 1

Tall Grass Mixture (Deer/Turkey)

Big Bluestem	1.0 lb. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	Dec. 1-July 1
Indiangrass	1.0 lb. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	
Little Bluestem	1.0 lb. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	
Sideoats Grama	1.0 lb. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	
Switchgrass	0.5 lb. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	
Kobe/Korean Lespedeza	5.0 lbs.	
or		
Single or Mix of Illinois Bundleflower Partridge Pea	1.0 lb.	

Short Grass Mixture (Quail/Rabbit)

Little Bluestem	3.0 lbs. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	Dec. 1-July 1
Indiangrass	0.5 lb. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	
Sideoats Grama	1.0 lb. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	
Kobe/Korean Lespedeza	5.0 lbs.	
or		
Single or Mix of Illinois Bundleflower Partridge Pea	1.0 lb.	

Broadcast Planting Mixture

Switchgrass (Cave-in-Rock, Blackwell)	8.0 lbs. (PLS $\frac{1}{2}$)	Apr. 1-July 1
Kobe/Korean Lespedeza	5.0 lbs.	

Cool Season Legume Mixture

Ladino Clover	4.0 lbs.	Feb. 20-Apr. 1
<u>Eligible Seeds</u>	<u>Seeding Rates</u>	

<u>or Plants</u>	<u>(per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
Red Clover	5.0 lbs.	Aug. 15-Oct. 1
Winter Wheat (Temporary Cover)	25.0 lbs.	

Shrub Establishment: Plantings may consist of single species of shrub lespedeza or two or more shrub species.

Shrub Lespedeza	12.0 lbs.	March 1 – June 1 ^{2/}
Spicebush	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Indigobush	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Wild Plum	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Chickasaw Plum	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Washington Hawthorne	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
American Beautyberry	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Flowering Dogwood	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Crabapple	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Sawtooth Oak	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1
Persimmon	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1 – Apr. 1

Temporary Cover – Summer

Millet, White Proso	20.0 lbs.	May 1 – July 1
Millet, Foxtail	20.0 lbs.	May 1 – July 1
Buckwheat	30.0 lbs.	May 1 – Aug. 1
Corn (with Eastern Gamagrass)	12,000-16,000 plants/acre	June 1

Temporary Cover – Winter

Crimson Clover	20.0 lbs.	Aug. 1 – Oct. 1
Winter Wheat	1.5 – 2 bushels	Sept. 1 – Oct. 20
Cereal Rye	1.5 – 2 bushels	Sept. 1 – Oct. 20
Wheat and Crimson Clover	1 bushel; 10 lbs.	Sept. 1 – Oct. 20
Rye and Crimson Clover	1 bushel; 10 lbs.	Sept. 1 – Oct. 20

^{1/} PLS = Pure Live Seed

^{2/} VA-70, Amquail, Thunbergii Varieties Only